

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

220 South Main Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410.638.3373 Voice/TTY 410.803.0433 Fax
disability@co.ha.md.us

Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2005

Attendance:

Members Present:

Susan Austin
Debbie Braam
Angela Barnett
Bob Coen
Buddy Green
Stacey Hull
Gil Kennedy
Joan Loftus
Deborah Dunn for Carol Roughton
Marc Weinstein

Members Absent:

Keith Lewis
Laurie Kwiedorowicz
Rhia Perry

- I. Chairperson Buddy Green called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the March 28, 2005 Commission meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive Committee: A press release will be issued to advertise vacancies on the Commission including the Student Representative for the 2005/2006 School Year.
 - B. Accessibility Committee:
 - 1. Ramps for Homeowners and Renters Program: Jack Wilson of the Housing Agency is still accepting applications. Jack reports that two applications are nearing approval and he anticipates a ramp being constructed Spring/Summer 2005.

Striving for a Better Way of Life for Harford County Citizens with Disabilities



2. Waiver Request Committee: The Waiver Request Committee received a letter from Steve Shen of the Maryland Codes Administration, notifying them that the request for waiver of the Maryland Accessibility Code by a Harford County faith congregation had been denied. (The committee had reviewed the request as the “designated disability advisory group” and had recommended that the waiver be denied.)
- C. Education Committee: Committee Chairperson Debbie Braam reported that Mountain Christian Church will be the site for the March 2006 Expo for Individuals with Disabilities. The first planning committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the historic “Bel Air Colored High School”.
- D. Government and Community Relations Committee:
1. Legislative Committee: See attached report.
 2. Commission web page: A new feature, “Spotlight on Services” has been added to the webpage, www.co.ha.md.us/services/disabilities . Every month, the spotlight will feature information about a community service provider. The first agency “under the spotlight” is the Division of Rehabilitation Services”.
- IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: See attached.
- V. Old Business:
- A. Transportation Steering Committee:
1. Cheryl Gable, Harford County’s new Mobility Trainer/Coordinator, has been working since February 14, 2005. Cheryl is available to do individual and group sessions on public transportation in Harford County and individualized mobility training. She can be contacted at 410-638-3389 voice/TTY or via email at clgable@co.ha.md.us . Cheryl will make a presentation at an upcoming Commission meeting.

2. The Disabilities Coordinator will make a presentation on the transportation coordination effort in Harford County to the Washington County Commission on Disabilities in Hagerstown on May 25, 2005.
- B. 15th Anniversary of the Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act: the subcommittee planning the event will meet on Wednesday, May 4, 2005 at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".
 - C. Mentors for children with disabilities: Student Representative Rhia Perry prepared a letter to the Editor of the Aegis regarding the difficulty Michelle Luce, Harford County Kids CAN Coordinator has been having in finding adults to mentor children with disabilities. The draft will be forwarded to Michelle for review.
- VI. New Business: There was none.
- VII. Announcements and Public Comment:
- A. Pete Raimondi updated the Commission on his advocacy efforts with regard to battery operated shopping carts in shopping malls. An article on his advocacy appeared in the Pennysaver and another will appear in the newsletter of the Maryland Retail Association. He is also planning to file a complaint against various mall owners with the Maryland Human Relations Commission.
 - B. Delarita Ford complimented Mr. Raimondi on his efforts.
 - C. Susan Austin reported on accessibility issues at Joppatowne High School: Superintendent Jackie Haas and Assistant Superintendent for Operations Joe Licata are aware of the issues. Funding for upgrades has been included in the Harford County Public Schools capital budget which is pending approval by the County Council.
- VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, May 23, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.